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Military continues to spy on civilians, report alleges

Washington (AP)—The Pentagon, which once kept files on the political activities of 100,000 Americans, still spies on citizens thought to pose a "threat" to the military, a staff report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities said yesterday.

Although the report stressed that military spying "has been greatly reduced," it said that

Pentagon directives are "so ambiguous" that widespread surveillance of civilians could resume.

According to the report, military agents have been authorized to penetrate civilian groups on nine occasions since the new directives went into effect in 1971. Most of the military spying since 1971 has been done by the Navy at bases in

Charleston, S.C., and San Diego and Long Beach, Calif., the report indicated.

In addition, military intelligence agencies continue to spy on American civilians living near military installations in Japan and West Germany, the report said. In Berlin, the Army opened mail addressed to an underground newspaper affiliated with a group founded in 1972 under the name "Americans in Berlin for McGovern," according to the report.

Much of the 49-page staff report detailed actions that have been the subject of congressional hearings dating back to 1971, when they were first disclosed in the press.

Among these military actions were:

- The sending of a total of 1,500 agents to virtually every city in the country to collect information "on the most trivial of political dissent" and store it in computers. The Army maintained files on persons ranging from Senator Adlai E. Stevenson 3d and Representative Abner J. Mikva, both Illinois Democrats, to Arlo Guthrie and Joan Baez, the folk singers. Army agents posed as television newsmen at the 1968 Democratic National Convention and attended a Halloween party for schoolchildren in search for a dissident.

- The monitoring of citizen,

police and taxi buzz radios during demonstrations like the 1967 march on the Pentagon, the 1968 poor people's campaign and the national political conventions. The monitoring continued despite a law prohibiting anyone from intercepting private radio transmissions and an opinion by the Federal Communications Commission that it was illegal. In 1969 Army Security Units at Fort Hood, Texas, spent a month monitoring a nationwide citizens band network without any indication that a civil disturbance would develop.

- Participation in law-enforcement operations by exchanges of intelligence files with local police departments and acting as "observers" on police raids. When the 1971 directives ordering the destruction of files on civilians went into effect, some military intelligence units transferred their files to police in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Washington.

Among the surveillance activities undertaken since 1971

- Penetration by the Naval Investigative Service of anti-war groups in San Diego, one of which was protesting deployment of ships to Vietnam.

- Penetration by Air Force agents of an underground newspaper near Travis AFB, Calif.
- Penetration of an anti-war group planning to protest departure of Navy ships from Charleston, S.C., to Vietnam.

- The loaning of a Navy agent to the FBI to infiltrate a dissident group with anti-military objectives in Long Beach, Calif.

The most recent incident of military spying described in the report occurred in 1975, when the Navy infiltrated a group that was offering advice to dissident sailors in Charleston. The Navy learned of plans for a sit-down strike, but it never occurred because the ringleader was discharged for "drug-related reasons," apparently as a result of information provided by a Navy informant, the report said.